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MAJOR NEWS!

Office of Undergraduate Studies
Department of English

A note from the director...



Dear Students:

Once again we are excited to tell you about some of our **Spring 2022** classes. The faculty-student chess match continues - drop by **UH 1933** to make your move - and there are **two upcoming events** that you should not miss. The first is the presentation of projects by **students in ENGL 398 and inductions into *Sigma Tau Delta*** and the second is our **Finals Week Study Break**. These are on **December 3** and **December 6** respectively.

Details are below. Please email kboulay@uic.edu to save your place for either or both.

Finally, what are you most looking forward to reading over break? Our intrepid reporter **Chasitivity Garland** has been surveying students' for their must-read lists. Keep reading for the results!

Sincerely,

Prof. Robin Reames, Director of Undergraduate Studies

rreames@uic.edu

Spring 2022 Courses



**DOES POETRY
NEED POETS?**
(or language?)



Recent movements in
American poetry defy
tradition and resist form.
Learn how.

**TOPICS IN POETRY:
FORMS OF POETIC RESISTANCE
ENGL 437**

Tues–Thurs 9:30–10:45am
Spring 2022
Prof. Jennifer Ashton jashton@uic.edu

English 437: Topics in Poetry

Prof. Jennifer Ashton

In this course we'll explore a range of formal experiments and movements in recent American poetry. We'll start with a survey of late 20th-century examples of what came to be known as Language (a.k.a.

L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E) Writing, followed by a number of early 21st-century antagonistic and otherwise resistant responses to that movement, both aesthetic and sociopolitical, that became associated with the term "postlangpo." This will lead us to a number of works flying under the banner of conceptualism. Some involve wholesale or partial appropriation of existing texts: Katie Degentesh's and Michael Magee's contributions to the Internet-search-based "Flarf" movement; Mark Nowak's Coal Mountain Elementary, a collage of news reports of mining accidents in China and firsthand testimonies of survivors of the 2006 Sago Mine disaster in Virginia alongside K-12 lesson plans about coal mining published on a website operated by the American Coal Foundation, a pro-coal industry lobbying group; Jen Bervin's Nets, an erasure-based work using Shakespeare's sonnets. Other works shift poetic agency away from the poet onto mechanical processes or procedures or outsourced producers: computer-generated works such as The Apostrophe Engine or Gnoetry, pseudo-aleatory methods adopted by Harryette Mullen in Sleeping with the

Dictionary, poems written by Amazon Turk workers in Nick Thurston's Of the Subcontract. Some of these works are also legible as forms of resistance to a longstanding lyric tradition (variously defined), with which much of the poetry written in English and other European languages over the last four and half centuries (at least) has been associated. Tracing the path of lyric engagement further will lead us to some remarkable invented speakers: the "Black Automaton" in the series of eponymous graphic poems by Douglas Kearney; Cathy Park Hong's fabricated "pidgin" spoken by a Virgil-like "Guide" in Dance Dance Revolution; Claudia Rankine's astonishing use of the second-person address in Citizen: An American Lyric; or the exaggerated confessional persona of 'Tao Lin' in that writer's early poems.

Our texts will consist primarily of PDF excerpts from works by the writers mentioned above (along with others) that will be housed on Blackboard free of charge; however, three books will need to be acquired, whether by purchase from a book vendor, loan from a library, or gift from a generous soul: Nowak's Coal Mountain Elementary, Hong's Dance Dance Revolution, and Rankine's Citizen. Written work for the course will consist of four efforts involving more extended engagement with our readings. By the end of the semester this written work will amount to a mix of both analytical papers (3-4 pages double-spaced) and creative exercises (up to 4 pages double-spaced for prose and up to 3 pages single-spaced for poetry). Students will be free to set the ratio of

analytical to creative work in that mix as long as the four projects include at least one of each type. Graduate students will be expected to develop one of their four projects into a longer conference-panel-length paper (2000-2500 words) due by the end of semester.

Questions? [Email the instructor.](#)

Ready to enroll? Click [here.](#)

ENGL 442: Topics in Latinx Literature: Puro Latinx—Roots & Branches

Prof. Luis Urrea

This course will feature a quick survey of the roots of Latinx Literature and an adventuresome climb out along the branches into the 21st century to understand how we tell our stories. We will have zoom conversations with several authors and even take a detour into Latinx moviemaking as well as popular music (roc en espanol).

Questions? Email the instructor.

Ready to enroll? Click [here.](#)

GO VIRAL.
(poetically speaking.)

Plagues, poxes,
& seriously outrageous
conspiracy theories.
Be intrigued.

**TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL LIT
WRITING THE PLAGUE
ENGL 408**

Mon-Wed 3-4:15pm
Spring 2022
Prof. Alfred Thomas alfredt@uic.edu

**PUT DOWN
ROOTS.**
(and find your voice.)

Voices in Latino/x literature
- old & new - are spreading roots
and growing new shoots.
Join the conversation.

**PURO LATINX -
ROOTS & BRANCHES
ENGL 442**

Mon 2-4:50pm
Spring 2022
Professor Luis Urrea lurrea@uic.edu

English 408: Medieval Lit - The Literature of Pandemic from Chaucer Onwards

Prof. Alfred Thomas

The Black Death, the greatest biomedical crisis in human history, killed about half the population of Europe between 1348 and 1353, but continued to ravage the continent for the next three hundred years. In this course we shall explore how medieval and early modern writers from Chaucer to Shakespeare reacted to these high rates of

mortality. Some authors like Geoffrey Chaucer and the Pearl-Poet address the Black Death obliquely, while others like such as the early Italian humanist Giovanni Boccaccio address it head-on. One of the most serious consequences of the Black Death was the scapegoating of vulnerable minorities like Jews and lepers who were accused of poisoning the wells and were murdered in large numbers. The point of the course is to understand the similarities as well as differences between medieval and modern reactions to epidemiological catastrophe and how COVID-19 has also led to hysteria and the scapegoating of ethnic minorities today.

Questions? Email the instructor.

Ready to enroll? Click [here](#).

English 493: Internship in Nonfiction Writing

Prof. Linda Landis Andrews

“What can I do with an English major?” is a question that often concerns students, particularly when parents and others ask about the future. No need to hedge; every organization needs writers to provide information through websites and blogs, to add creativity to the focus of its work, and to move its ideas forward. Writers are gifted people and their skills are needed.

Becoming a contributing writer takes planning, however, starting with an internship, which provides an opportunity to step off campus and use the writing and analytical skills gained through English courses.

In ENGL 493, guided by an instructor and a supervisor, English majors quickly adjust to a public audience and conduct research, gain interviewing skills, write content, edit, learn technology, assist with special events, to name a few of the tasks assigned in an internship. Students are enrolled in ENGL 493 while concurrently working at an internship for 12 hours a week.

Employers include nonprofits, radio and television stations, online and print newspapers and magazines, public relations firms, museums, associations, law firms, and health organizations. There is an internship for every interest. Because of the pandemic, many internships are conducted remotely, which makes the world a stage. Last

GET TO WORK.
(in a good way.)

What can you do with an English major?
Land a sweet job.
Learn how.

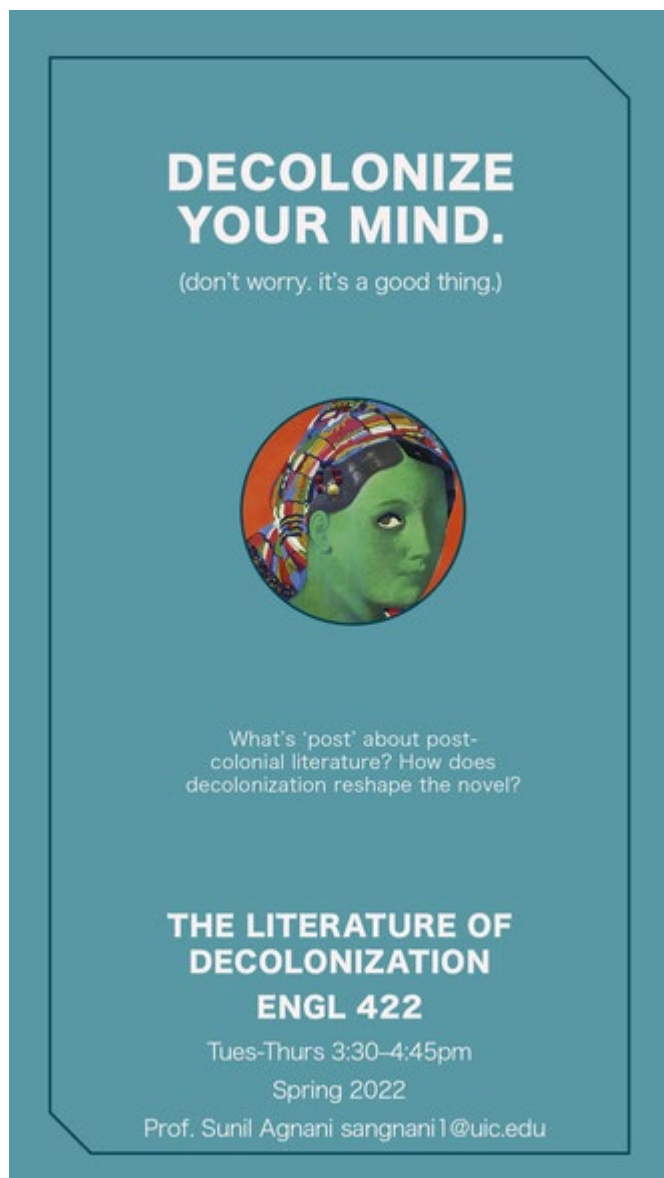
**INTERNSHIP IN
NONFICTION WRITING
ENGL 493**

Thurs 3:30-4:45pm
Spring 2022
Prof. Linda Andrews landrews@uic.edu

spring one intern worked for an organization in Denver and another worked from home in Ho Chi Minh City.

Questions? Email the instructor.

Ready to enroll? Click [here](#).



ENGL 422: Topics in Postcolonial & World Lit: From Colony to Postcolony

Prof. Sunil Agnani

This course introduces students to what used to be called third-world literature, or postcolonial literature. We will investigate the legacies of European colonialism through a study of fiction, essays, and films that were produced during the colonial period and its aftermath. We begin with Conrad and Kipling, then shift to those in the colonies in order to examine the cultural impact of empire, anti-colonial nationalism, and the role played by exile and diaspora communities.

What challenges do works from writers on the receiving end of empire—such as Gandhi, Fanon, Césaire, J.M. Coetzee, Assia Djebar, Michael Ondaatje, Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh—pose to the conventional idea of justice? How do they reveal contradictions within the languages of liberalism and progress that emerged in 19th-century Europe? How do such writers rework the classic forms of the novel? Finally, how has the failure of some of the primary aims of decolonization (economic sovereignty, full political autonomy) affected more recent writing of the last 40 years? Criticism from: Edward Said and Gayatri Spivak.

Questions? Email the instructor.

Ready to enroll? Click [here](#).

And the Freshwater Lab... Learn about the world, in the world!

ENGL 483: Studies in Language and Rhetoric: The Freshwater Lab

The Spring Freshwater Lab course focuses on law, policy, and rhetoric concerning the Great Lakes and other cross-border watersheds. Through grant funding, guest professors and speakers from a wide range of environmental organizations and initiatives visit class and

work with individual students on their ideas and projects. Following spring break, students have the opportunity to develop their own projects or to undertake an internship at an organization focused on water or the environment. Professor Havrelock helps to place students in an internship most aligned with their interests and extends summer funding for the internship through a competitive process. In Summer 2021, all Freshwater Lab interns were funded and met for field trips along the lake and river. More information is available at <http://www.freshwaterlab.org/internship>

CRN: 42760 (u)/42761 (g)

Days/Times: T 2:00-4:50

Instructor: [Havrelock, Rachel](#)



The poster features a blue sky and water background. The UIC logo is in the top left. The main title is 'Help Build Our Common Future'. Below that, it says 'The Freshwater Lab Internship Course ENGL 483/UPP 493/PA 494' and 'Spring 2022 Tuesdays 2:00 to 4:50'. A section titled 'LEARN CONNECT ENGAGE' lists three parts: 1. Study of local and regional water and environmental issues. 2. Skill-building with professionals in the areas of environmental writing and communication, community-based research, water policy, and public health. 3. Placement in an internship for the last five weeks of the semester. It also mentions an option to stay in your internship during summer 2021. A small UIC logo is in the bottom right.

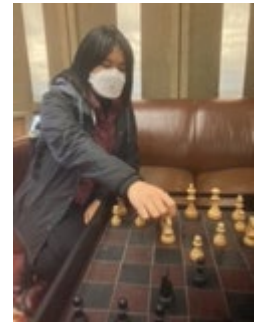
Heating Up! Faculty - Student Chess Match Continues...



Our faculty/student chess match continued this week with a move by Professor Grimes, bishop to C5.

Crystal Monsalud countered, knight to f3. The battle control the center of the board is heating up!

Want to play? Stop by UH 1933 to make your move!



Free Headshots

Looking for a professional headshot for your LinkedIn account, etc? **[Get free professional photos](#)** **November 16, 2021** in the **Commuter Student Resource Center**. No dress code is required, but business/professional is recommended.

Where: Commuter Student Resource Center, MPR Lounge, SCE

When: November 16, 2021 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Questions? Contact commuter@uic.edu

Winter Break Reading

Who's Looking forward to Reading What

Chasitivity Garland

One of the pleasures of the break is reading what you want to read. I asked some fellow students what they are most anticipating getting into and here is what they said.



Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

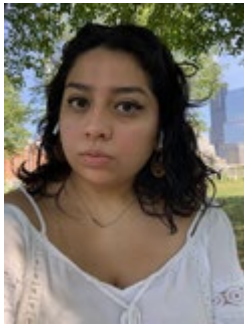
Lace Burwell

A book I'm excited to read that I just got is Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes We're Watching God*. Zora Neal Hurston is a huge inspiration of mine and the work I do. Her writing depicts an authentic journey of the Black women's struggles and uniqueness despite the adversity she encountered. Her dedication to her stories told the way she wanted to tell them is inspiring and moving. She did not do it for the money. She created work because she had a story to tell for her people and herself, even though some of her stories were not respected by her own people at the time. She continued to create and make her stamp on the world, opening doors for many artists of color.

The Heart: Frida Kahlo in Paris by Marc Petitjean

Charlotte Glasser

I am interested in this book because I always wanted to read a book about Frida Kahlo.



Open Veins of Latin America by Eduardo Galeano

Chelsea Romo

I am currently excited to read *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent* by Eduardo Galeano.



Fleabag: The Scriptures by Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Sarah Phelps

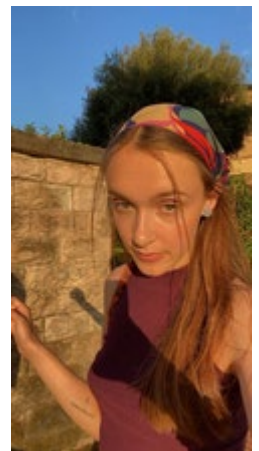
One of my favorite shows is *Fleabag* and I am excited to immerse myself in the text behind the show I love so much.



My Year of Rest and Relaxation by Ottessa Moshfegh

Marla Chinbat

I'm really looking forward to reading the book *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by the author Ottessa Moshfegh.



Calls for Writers, etc.

Black Lawrence Press' Big Moose Prize

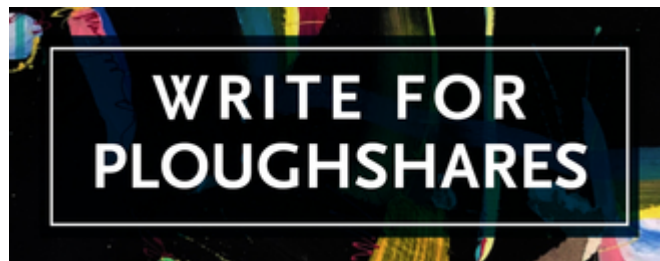
Each year Black Lawrence Press will award [The Big Moose Prize](#) for an unpublished novel. The prize is open to new, emerging, and established writers. The winner of this contest will receive book publication, a \$1,000 cash award, and ten copies of the book. Prizes will be awarded on publication.

The annual deadline is **January 31, 2022**. Click [here](#) to submit.

Ploughshares Seeks Writers

Ploughshares is currently accepting applications for regular contributors to the Ploughshares Blog. Applications are **due November 10, 2021** at 9:00am (Eastern Time).

Regular contributors are contracted on a 12-month basis, with contracts starting January 1, 2022. Regular contributors are responsible for writing one critical essay per month (regular contributors may occasionally write personal essays or conduct interviews in place of their monthly critical essay assignment). Publication dates for these pieces will be set by Ploughshares Blog editors before January 1, 2022, and regular contributors will be responsible for submitting pitches at least ten days prior to these predetermined publication dates and drafts at least seven days prior to these predetermined publication dates. All drafts undergo editing, though the level of editing needed is determined case-by-case; at a minimum, all pieces will be line edited, copy edited, and fact-checked. Regular contributions are between 1,300 and 1,999 words each; regular contributors are **paid \$35** per piece contributed. Regular contributors are permitted to submit pitches for book reviews and longform essays outside of their regular contribution contract.



To apply, please email blog@pshares.org with the subject line “2022 BLOGGER APPLICATION” and the following materials attached:

- 3 pitches, following the suggestions outlined [here](#)
- 3 writing samples, of published and/or unpublished but finished work

Please read the blog to get a sense of what we cover and what we've already covered. Since 1971, Ploughshares has discovered and cultivated the freshest voices in contemporary literature, and remains at the forefront of American publishing by providing readers with groundbreaking poetry, prose, and literary coverage across a variety of print and digital formats. We value strong voices and new perspectives on literature above all.

All applications will receive a response.

Writers interested in publishing one-off pieces may pitch the Ploughshares Blog editors at any time, following guidelines at *Ploughshares'* [website](#).

Dreamer by Night Magazine Seeks Submissions

In honor of her late aunt, UIC alum **Aleena Haider** has founded *Dreamer by Night*. An online magazine, *Dreamer by Night* is currently accepting submissions on grief, loss, etc. For more information or to submit work, please email adreamerbynight@gmail.com.

Outrageous Fortune Calls for Outstanding Submissions

Outrageous Fortune, the country's first nationwide online literary magazine for and by undergraduates, is currently accepting submissions. We accept all areas of work, including digital files such as video-recorded spoken word and short films. Each semester we look for fiction, non-fiction, drama, film, art, photography, and poetry. While we operate on a rolling submissions basis, we are accepting submissions for consideration to be included in our Spring 2022 issue until **November 30, 2021**, to the email outrageousfortune@marybaldwin.edu.

Please feel free to browse our [website](#) as well as our [Submission Guidelines](#). We also encourage you to Like our [Facebook Page](#) and follow us on Instagram [@outrageousfortune.mag](#) for regular updates on the magazine and content.

Violet Margin Seeks Submissions

Violet Margin (formerly *Alchemist Review*) is by students, for students. We are accepting work from undergraduates across the nation to create a collection of prose, poetry, and art that will be published and printed in our **Spring 2022** edition.

We want our literary journal to be a home for the atypical, the absurd and the perverse. **Violet Margin** values the stories, experiences and the voices that tend to lie in the margins. We know that every young creator has a voice that demands to be heard, and our journal strives to be the public outlet that voice needs.

Submissions due by **December 3, 2021**.

For guidelines, etc.: [Violet Margin](#).

Internships, Scholarships, Fellowships & Jobs

Fellowship Opportunity at UNC-Chapel Hill

The [Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program](#) (MURAP) invites applications for a **ten-week** summer research fellowship for undergraduate students (**rising juniors or seniors**) in the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts. The program will be held from **Monday, May 16 to Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. MURAP seeks to prepare talented and motivated students from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds, or those with a proven commitment to diversity and to eradicating racial disparities in the academy, for **future careers** as academic researchers and faculty. Working under the guidance of a UNC faculty mentor, students participate in a rigorous research experience that prepares them for graduate study and academic careers.

To apply, students must complete an online application. The application deadline is Monday, February 14, 2022. To access an application, or for additional information about MURAP, please visit <http://www.murap.unc.edu> or contact murap@unc.edu.

Upcoming Events

Senior Thesis Presentations and Sigma Tau Delta Inductions

Friday, December 3, 2021

Room: UH-2028

Time: 3:00-4:00 pm

Are you considering taking ENGL 399: Independent Study? Come listen to this semester's ENGL 399 students give an overview of their varied projects. Immediately following the presentations, we will induct students into the English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta. Please email kboulay@uic.edu to reserve your place.

Presenters include:

Anthony Camacho:

The Art of War

Leah Frank:

"Shakespeare-ing Shakespeare: How Modern Adaptations Respond to Modern Political Moments"

Ean Meraz:

"In the World of Fiction: A Fangirl's Perspective"

Tanama Rivera Vargas:

"one day we will sit by the caribbean sea and, in reminiscing over these moments we hold, we will emerge as meaning and transform this world".

Alizha Vernon:

"Trauma Theory in Short Fiction"

Finals Week Study Party

Monday, December 6, 2021

Room: UH-2028

Time: 12:00-1:00 pm

Celebrate finishing the semester and get ready for finals with food and soft drinks. Bring your friends, relax with your peers and take a quick break before the semester ends. Please email kboulay@uic.edu to reserve your place.

Graduate Programs

All graduate programs advertised in this newsletter provide full funding for students. It is our policy to only advertise programs that fit the financial needs of our students.

Saint Louis University

SLU English offers fully funded stand-alone MA and PhD programs. Every full-time student we admit receives full tuition remission as well as a living stipend and health insurance. In turn, our students serve as research assistants, writing consultants, and instructors in our composition and literature classes. This experience helps to prepare students to go on to pursue careers in college teaching, secondary education, professional writing, and many other fields.

Our students take a range of courses across the curriculum in English. We regularly offer graduate seminars in global, U.S., and British literature as well as literary theory and rhetoric and composition. As we are the institutional home for the African American Review, we have a particular strength in African American literature. The department's history, which includes having such figures as **Walter J. Ong** and **Marshall McLuhan** on the faculty, means that we also have a strong focus on textual, media, and digital studies. And our ready access to the **Vatican Film Library** makes our department an excellent fit for students interested in earlier periods of English literary history. Outside of these areas, students focus on periods across the discipline, drawing from approaches including gender and sexuality studies, disability studies, digital humanities, and many others.

Questions? Contact rachel.g.smith@slu.edu

Don't miss the [live webinar](#) on **Monday, November 8 at 5pm** central time.

[University of Victoria](#) offers a MA in English. The program includes:

- Graduate funding for all students, including international applicants
- Teaching opportunities
- Seminars on professional skills and job-seeking
- Frequent student-faculty mixers and informal talks
- Innovative and fascinating courses - from *Paradise Lost* to video games and beyond
- Reading groups and collectives (theory group, BIPOC students, Digital Humanities cluster, etc.)

Questions? Email englgradsec@uvic.ca



The flyer for the University of Victoria Master of Arts in English program features a central image of a diverse group of students. To the right, a teal sidebar lists key program benefits: 'Highly successful in grants competitions (SSHRC)', 'Cutting-edge Teaching and Research', 'World-class faculty', and 'FUNDING for every incoming student'. Below the image, the program title 'MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH' is prominently displayed, followed by 'At the University of Victoria'. A list of program offerings includes graduate funding for all students, teaching opportunities, seminars on professional skills, frequent student-faculty mixers, innovative courses like *Paradise Lost* and video games, and reading groups. A quote from a graduate expresses nostalgia for the department. Contact information for the Graduate Adviser (Stephen Ross) and Graduate Secretary (Abbey Hall) is provided at the bottom, along with the website uvic.ca/english.

About Major News

Major News is an occasional newsletter for undergraduates and faculty of UIC's **Department of English**. If you have an event or issue of interest to our community that you would like us to consider including, please email details to english@uic.edu. The deadline for inclusion in the current week's issue is **Wednesday at noon**. All

materials received after this time and deemed acceptable for inclusion in **Major News** will appear in the following week's edition.

Past issues of *Major News* are available at: <https://engl.uic.edu/news-events/newsletter-archive/>.

Department of English Office of Undergraduate Studies

Contact us:

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Phone: (312) 413-2200 | english@uic.edu

<https://engl.uic.edu/programs/undergraduate-studies/>



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